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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/784,308	02/16/2001	Masahiko Nishikawa	010169	2236

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EXAMINER

VENT, JAMIE J

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2621

DATE MAILED: 05/16/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/784,308

Applicant(s)

NISHIKAWA ET AL.

Examiner

Jamie Vent

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 02 April 2006.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-11 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 1-6 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 7 and 9-11 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Allowable Subject Matter

TTG
5/14/06
Claims 1-6 are allowed.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

Suga et al (US 6,449,426) discloses a digital camera wherein various writers are present for writing images to different areas of memory that are present as seen in Figure 10. Additionally, a reader for reading the raw image stored and producers must be present in order for the image to properly be stored and displayed as further seen in Figure 10 and described in Column 9 Lines 30+; however Suga et al fails to disclose a third writer for writing to a third area of memory with a greater access speed. Therefore, the prior art of record fails to disclose, suggest, or teach the following limitation:

".. a third writer for writing to a third area of said memory the image for recording produced by said first producer; wherein an access speed to said memory is three time greater or more than a processing speed by each of said first producer and said second producer, and the image for recording produced by said first producer is applied to said second producer without passing through the memory."

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 7, 10 & 11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable by Suga et al (US 6,449,426) in view of Nagasaki et al (US 5,153,730) in further view of Anderson (US 5,933,137).

[claims 7 & 10]

In regard to Claims 7 and 10, discloses a digital camera, as previously described in previous Claim 1; however, fails to disclose:

- each of the main image for recording, the image for display and the size-reduced image for recording is an image corresponding to a YUV format, a resolution of the main image for recording is higher than the resolution of the image for display, the resolution of the image for display is higher than the resolution of the size-reduced image for recording, and each of the first process and the second process includes a resolution-reducing process.

Nagasaki et al discloses a digital still camera having multiple recording stages as seen in Figure 1. It is shown an image processing section 33 in Figure 1 that prepares the images for recording at various resolutions based on the size image of the recording as stated in Column 19 Lines 15+. The image for display is a size-reduced image of the

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recorded image that allows for the user to properly view a size-reduced image of images on the record medium. Anderson discloses in Figure 11a-11d thumbnails of images that are size-reduced of the main image as additionally disclosed in Column 14 Lines 10+. The ability to have a size-reduced image allows for the user to have a more effective view of images that are recorded. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to use a digital camera, as disclosed by Suga et al, and further incorporate an image corresponding to the recorded images, as disclosed by Nagasaki et al and additionally disclosed by Anderson et al.

[claim 11]

In regard to Claim 11, Suga et al discloses a digital camera wherein the main image signal, the display image signal and the size-reduced image signal are signals of the same type, and the main image signal having a resolution higher than a resolution of the display image signal and the display image signal having a resolution higher than a resolution of the size-reduced image signal (Column 7 Lines 10-65 discloses the various image resolutions of various image signals and thereby one image signal having a higher resolution than the size reduced image signal).

Claim 9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Suga et al (US 6,449,426).

[claim 9]

In regard to Claim 9, Suga et al discloses a digital camera wherein the raw image signal that each pixel has any one color component, and the display image signal and the recording image signal being both Yuv format. It is disclosed in Column 2 Lines 20-40

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that the camera signal is a raw image signal; however fails to disclose that each pixel has any one color component, and display image signal and recording image signal being both Yuv format. It is well known the art that a raw image data signal will display various color components and furthermore that Yuv type signals is one of the many type of signals of a camera recording image signal. Therefore, the examiner takes official notice that it is well known that a recording image signal is a Yuv type signal.

Conclusion

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

- Roberts et al (US 5,933,137).

Contact Information

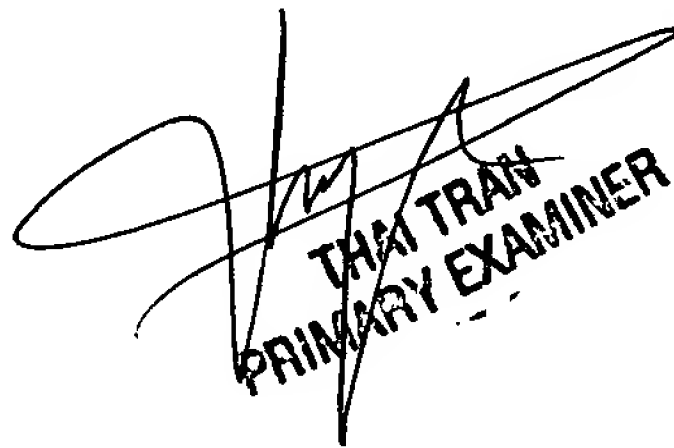
Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Jamie Vent whose telephone number is 571-272-7384. The examiner can normally be reached on 7:30am-5:00pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Thai Tran can be reached on 571-272-7382. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Jamie Vent
5/11/2006


THAI TRAN
PRIMARY EXAMINER